

## Vermont Farmer

T. H. HOSKINS, M. D., Editor.

The time is coming, perhaps sooner than any of us think, when they who do the work of the world shall rise to the level of the world, and divide with themselves the fruit of their toil.

St. Johnsbury, Vt., May 16, 1873.

## DEEP PLOWING.

We see indications that the time is near when a common-sense doctrine upon the question of depth in plowing can be broached, without subjecting the man who dares broach it to exclusion from the and the anathema marmatha of that orthodox agricultural sect whereof the quidnuncs of the New York Farmers' Club are the high priests, and the New York Tribune is (or was) the recognized organ.

It has been a mercy that the difficulty of applying this universal paradox of deep plowing has prevented many farmers from ruining their land by patting it in practice. But so universal and dogmatic has been the teaching, that to double our crops it is only necessary to double the depth to which we run our plows, that those who do not practice it have felt compelled to believe in it, as a revealed truth, and to feel guilty every time they take out the plow, because they cannot run it beam deep, and have a second team following with a subsoiler.

We see that hard facts have convinced at least one of the deep plowing theorists of his error, and the handsome way in which Col. Waring comes out with his acknowledgment in the *Agriculturist* for May, deserves hearty appreciation. The Colonel, after a most careful experiment of deep plowing under extremely favorable circumstances, (the field being thoroughly underdrained,) estimates his loss in labor and crops for five years, on an eight acre field, at eight hundred dollars. And he only went ten inches deep. He says, had he plowed five inches instead of ten, five years ago, he would have had as good a stand of grass on the field the first year, as he has now after a heavy annual manuring for the whole five years. His experience is the experience of hundreds.

It is strange, and shows how little farmers observe and reflect—how little they exercise the power of independent thought—that a Procrustean theory like this of deep plowing should have received such universal currency and acceptance, so that only now and then an independent man, in a farmers' club, or agricultural meeting, has dared, in a hesitating way, to question it; usually with the consequence of a verbal caning at the hands of some zealous disciple.

The depth to which we should plow a piece of land can be regulated by no rule. It depends upon a great variety of circumstances. It should vary with the nature of the soil and subsoil, with the kind of crop to be grown, and with the climate. These are facts, that, to the practical man, need only to be stated to ensure their acceptance. The knowledge of them comes from experiment, and coincides with experience; it is also confirmed by science. Yet they are wholly disregarded by hundreds of writers and talkers, who, so far as they have had any influence, have had an evil one upon the minds of the farmers, darkening counsel by words without knowledge.

There are farms here and there, or portions of farms, all over the country, which may be deeply plowed without injury, and sometimes, or for some crops, with advantage. These are usually alluvial lands, of which the composition is uniform for a considerable depth. It often happens on this kind of land, when apparently "run out," that a deeper furrow will greatly increase the crop. But such is not the character of any of our hill land, and of but a part of that usually called valley land. The surface soil of these latter is entirely distinct in character from their subsoil, which while it may contain some elements of fertility, contains them in such small proportions, or in such insoluble combination, as to be generally injurious to crops when brought to the surface, or mixed with the top layer of earth. It is sometimes possible, though not so generally as is believed, to deepen a shallow soil by taking up a little of the subsoil every year. Whether it will pay to do this in any given case can only be ascertained by careful experiments and calculation. Some subsoils are actually poisonous to crops, and a field may be rendered worthless for a generation by carelessly or intentionally running a plow into them. On the whole we believe the best and surest subsoiler we have is the clover plant. Its long roots will go down, in most subsoils, and bring up not only the fertilizing elements naturally deposited there, but also, in light soils, a good deal of fertilizing matter that has leached downward, below the reach of grain crops and common grasses. By a rotation into which clover enters, a very much larger average can be given to the crops than when it is left out, other things being equal. We were much amused, this spring, by the remark of a plowman who was turning over a field for us in which a clover ley had been plowed under last spring for corn. "Why," said he, "how rich this rolls up; it would do for wheat." He thought we had been manuring it very heavily, when in fact nothing but mineral fertilizers and clover seed had been put under it for six years.

The depth to which the plow should be run depends to a considerable extent upon the crop to be grown. Grain crops do best with a rich, shallow seed bed, in perfect tith and free from weeds. For roots, on the contrary, we want to go as deep as the soil will admit. Shallow soils are not adapted to roots, and when it is necessary to grow them on such soils, it is best to ridge the ground for the roots. Level culture is best for potatoes, (and indeed for all crops,) when the soil is deep and dry. But some are trying to make this, like deep plowing, surface manuring, and other hobbies a general rule. It will not work so.

Climate makes a great difference in regard to the profitable depth to which the plow may be run, supposing the land to be of that character which admits of deep plowing at all. The biggest crop of corn on record was raised in South Carolina, yet the average crop of that state is only some eight or ten bushels to the acre. Alluvial land, deeply plowed, is what is required for a big corn crop in the South, and the same is true of the sugar cane. Hence the great benefit derived from the use of the steam plow on some of the sugar estates of Louisiana. But

note the difference produced by climate. In northern Vermont three or four inches is as deep as the ground should be plowed for corn. In the South a large, slow growing corn is cultivated, which requires a great amount of plant food, but is in no great hurry about getting it. It has six months to grow top and root in, and can forage far. The soil will be warm enough eighteen inches deep. Not so with us. Our corn must get through with its business in three months, and the soil is never warm enough for corn roots one foot below the surface. Consequently high manuring, clean culture, a warm season, and shallow plowing, are here the conditions of a large crop of corn.

We have no idea of giving, in this brief article, more than a hint at what seems to us the true principles of tillage, as regards depth of cultivation. What we aim at, rather, is a mild testimonial of rejoicing over the evidently approaching emancipation of the agricultural mind, and especially of the minds of agricultural writers, from the notion that the farmers of the country can benefit themselves by a general increase in the depth of tillage. What we want is an intelligent study of the whole subject, and this will lead us neither to the universal deep plowing of the theorists, nor the uniform shallow plowing of too many "practical" men, but an understanding of the principles by which every farmer may be able to know when, where, and for what to plow deep or shallow, according to circumstances.

We believe fully and unreservedly in popular government, "in a government of the people by the people, and for the people," as that great statesman, Abraham Lincoln, our "venerable Governor," *Argues*, in one column.

We judge that Gov. Converse has not forgotten the lesson in political economy taught him in the early years of his life, by the patriotic, union-loving Whigs of that day. They believe, and so does the Governor, in government by the people, and for the people. *Argues*, in another column.

"You pays your money, and you takes your choice."

A Montpelier subscriber writes:—"I see that the FARMER is received by some of our parts of the town, and hope the circulation will be extended, for I honestly think it is worth more than any other agricultural paper. There is certainly more reading matter and better adapted to the wants of Vermont farmers, when compared side by side, and it should be sustained by them."

The HISTORICAL MAGAZINE, edited and published at Morrisania, N. Y., by Henry B. Dawson, is now printing some articles of interest to Vermonters, including an essay by Ethan Allen on the Nature and Immortality of the Human Soul, not before published, and containing some striking and original ideas, that will give the reader a higher opinion than is generally held in regard to intellectual ability of the old hero, and his philosophical scope of thought in regard to spiritual matters. The Minutes of the Green Mountain Boys' Convention at Westminster in 1776, and the papers on the Vermont Controversy, from the archives of the State of New Hampshire, are also interesting reading, both much older matter of historical importance or curiosity. Will Mr. Dawson be kind enough to send us the succeeding numbers (after April) containing Mr. Allen's essay?

The Standard (P. Q.) Journal has fitted itself out with a new type, and, as a consequence, makes a very handsome appearance. The Journal job printing establishment has also received important additions, among them a chromatic press, printing several colors at once. We congratulate its proprietor on these evidences of the acceptability of his paper to its patrons.

We desire to call the attention of travelers to the advertisement of the Vermont Central Steamers on the great lakes. They constitute two daily lines that run through from Ogdensburg to Chicago and Milwaukee without change. The rates of fare, both first and second class, are lower than by any other line; the boats leave on time, and the accommodations for passengers are unexcelled. We hope before many years to see these boats starting from Lake Champlain ports via the Ganongwaug canal. Meantime let all Vermonters remember that the best Western line on the lakes is in Vermont hands, and that they will feel themselves at home all the way, when they travel on the Vermont Central steamers.

S. M. Pettengill & Co., of Boston and New York, one of the oldest firms of advertising agents in the country, carry on a most extensive business, having the agency of nearly every newspaper in the United States and British Provinces. Since the establishment of the firm in 1840, it has done business to the amount of over \$1,000,000, and is now more prosperous than ever, having recently opened another branch office in Philadelphia. We congratulate them on their well earned success, and recommend them to all who desire to advertise extensively, as prompt, liberal and sagacious men, whose aid and advice in their specialty is well worth seeking by all who aim at a large business in the only way it can be obtained—by extensive and judicious use of printer's ink.

Farmers are apt to believe too much. Don't be swindled, when you can buy a thing proved and improved for over twenty years. Buy the Blanchard churn.

## The Farmers' Convention in New York.

This convention was in session on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. A constitution was reported, which provides that the organization shall be known as the "National American Cheap Transportation Association," and that its object shall be the cheapening and equalization of railroad transportation rates throughout the United States. It provides for a subordinate association in each state, and regulates minor matters for the guidance and government of national and state associations. The committee on permanent organization reported the following officers, who were elected: President, Josiah Quincy, of Boston; Secretary, R. H. Ferguson, of Troy, N. Y.; and twenty-five vice presidents, including A. G. Dodge, of Vermont, ex-Gov. Paddiford, of Rhode Island, Gen. C. C. Hays, of Maine, and J. B. Sargent, of Connecticut. Mr. Quincy then addressed the convention, saying he had spent the larger part of his life in building railroads, and felt very keenly the danger growing out of great railroad monopolies. He appreciated their great benefits, but was aware of their danger to the people. The great granaries of Illinois held enough to

## Agricultural Items.

A hospital for horses has been established in Chicago.

Nine times out of ten, good horses are raised by good men.

Every spindle in a cotton factory will earn \$3 for each farmer in the vicinity.

Many farmers in the neighborhood of Norfolk, Va., propose to try to raise cotton.

It is the intention of farmers of Sedgewick Co., Kan., to plant cotton and tobacco.

The wheat prospect in Southern Illinois was never better.

It is proposed to start a beet sugar factory at Glenwood, Iowa.

In Virginia, last month was the driest April known for years.

J. C. Dege, of Jackson, Mich., has 126 horses in his breeding stables.

Texans say that it has been the best hay crop produced in this country.

A Lanesboro, Minn., man laid thirty-six full-sized eggs inside of sixteen days.

There is a promise of an excellent fruit crop in the mountain counties of Kentucky.

Wheat throughout Northern Kansas is in good condition, and promises a large yield.

The Hannibal and St. Joe road has been contracted to carry 128 car-loads of horses from Kansas and Colorado.

The Norwegians of Wisconsin won't use any plow not made after the Norwegian pattern, which is one-handed.

If a wealthy business man loses money on a speculation, he is all right—the money goes back where it came from.

An orange tree in California has celebrated its eighteenth anniversary by yielding a fifty-dollar crop.

A Connecticut Yankee offers to drain the Dismal Swamp of Virginia if the State will give him the land.

The average value of farm products in New Jersey is \$28.36 per acre, or greater than that of any other State in the country.

A St. Johnsbury farmer turned his attention to potatoes, last year, and from a moderate-sized farm, had sold, since harvest, 100 bushels, for \$750.

The prediction is made that corn will be worth 50 cents a bushel in Central Illinois next August, and a year hence twice that sum.

One inch of rainfall distributes 100 tons of water over an acre of land—a suggestive fact in view of the fact that as well as an agricultural point of view.

If the people of New-England would apply a tenth part of the ingenuity to farming that is bestowed on machinery they would have the first farms in the world.

The Wisconsin Western Farmer says that a gentleman in that State, has, during the last decade, realized an average of \$100 per year from eight apple trees.

Those westerners will occasionally boast of a Minnesota farmer's lost a millet, three years ago. The other day he cut down a tree, and found in its three-quarter-inch auger.

The trustees of the Maine state pomological society have decided not to hold a separate exhibition, this season, but to exhibit in connection with the state fair at Bangor.

Drying fruit for the Eastern market after the cooperative plan followed by some of our New England friends, has been found to become an important business in California.

The Bowling Green (Ky.) Pantograph tells of a quart, foaled last week, which gave nearly a gallon of milk the morning after its birth and has been milked regularly ever since.

The Houston, Tex., Telegraph says that the frost killed most of the cotton along the Brazos river, and it would have to be "planted over." Not much damage was done to the corn.

The rapid growth of the pine is shown by the fact that logging has been carried on during the past winter in Wisconsin where twenty years ago the sawmills were hardly large enough for carriages.

The Keokuk, Iowa, Presbytery of the United Protestant Church has suspended several of its communicants for the offence of joining secret societies, to-wit: "The Granges, or Patrons of Husbandry."

The Savannah, Ga., Advertiser says that farmers appear to be in good spirits. Laborers seem to be working well, and the crop season of 1873 may be said to have been started under most favorable auspices.

The Utica Herald says that milk pails that were first washed in cold water, then in warm soap suds, to take off all particles of grease, and then scalded in very hot water, and dried well in the sun or by the fire.

At a recent sale of Leicester sheep from the flocks of Lord Polwarth, an English breeder, one ram brought \$850, with one exception the highest price ever paid for a Leicester sheep. The average of the sale was \$185.

A company of Poles have purchased 800 acres of land from the Illinois Central Railway Company, near Ashley. This is the first instalment, and it is said that several thousand miles will colonize that portion of the State.

There is one dollar a glass in Montevideo, Uruguay, and there are 10 cents in the thirty man with only 75 cents about his clothes would be miserable in that city; however, he could buy a cow for 50 cents, if milk would serve his purpose.

The addition of a small quantity of glycerine to the oil or fat used for greasing harness and other leather, will promote its pliability and durability, and will prevent its being affected injuriously by the ammonia in the air of stables.

The first farmers' convention ever held in Oregon occurred at Salem, a few days ago. The resolutions passed were mainly devoted to encouraging methods of protection against greedy middle-men, securing cheap transportation of freights and the furtherance of home manufactures.

A correspondent of one of the English horticultural journals says: "Will any of our readers kindly inform me what the American papers mean by 'sweet' apples, which seem to distinguish as a peculiar class?" Dr. Thuermer thinks that man never saw baked apples and milk.

A few gentlemen from Canada recently sent to England to purchase a first-class English stallion. They were asked \$6,000 for a broken-winded beast and \$20,000 for a "rogue," which is a horse that cannot be depended on in a race. They concluded not to buy.

Those farmers who used to haul their wheat from thirty to sixty miles to the Mississippi river, and then do not make so much money now that railroads have come, as they did formerly, for the reason that elevators, railroads and commission men charge as much as it used to cost to haul the produce with their own teams.

There is a vigorous maiden at South Hadley Falls, Mass., 30 years old, a little over four feet high, weighs 180 pounds, who joins in all the severest labor of preparing and plowing the land, setting out tobacco plants and cultivating the earth generally, and who, withal, a decidedly good-looking and attractive Yankee girl.

A farmer who was sympathizing with a neighbor on the death of his son, said: "You should recollect, Neighbor Jones, there is no loss without some gain. John, you remember, was always a monstrous eater. I know he was, responded the bereaved parent; but to think he was laid up with rheumatism all winter and died just in haying time is pretty rough."

## Miscellaneous Items.

There were 203 divorces granted in New Hampshire, in 1872.

The Pittsburg Young Christians are after the gamblers.

A little orphan boy dug up a pot containing \$6000 in gold and silver at St. Joseph, Mo.

An educated man is always recognized by his wearing a stove-pipe hat and carrying a cane.

Kansas points to 314 convicts in its penitentiaries as evidence of its attractiveness to immigrants.

Jonathan C. Gibbs, colored, a graduate of Dartmouth, is state superintendent of public instruction in Florida.

A ragged old fellow is trying to make the Philadelphia bells ring in the Wandering Jew.

A Janesville (Wis.) woman snubbed a man's head with a brick for treating her husband badly.

A very handsome new house has been added to the other attractions for invalids at Winona, Minn.

An epicurean has discovered that the pleasant way to take cold-dinner oil is to fatten pigeons with it, and then eat the pigeons.

An Indianapolis citizen has been compelled to wear a muzzle to keep his wife from giving him pills in his sleep.

A precipitate Detroit man is miserable because his wife inherited half a million of dollars just after he had divorced himself.

Triplets recently born in Ripon, Wis., weighed altogether six pounds. They are too small to be dressed, and were kept wrapped up in cotton.

Two branches of the same family recently had an open fight in a graveyard at Rome, N. Y., about the transplanting of some of their ancestors.

Mrs. Lewis of Iron-ore, O., has recovered \$5000 from the front-seller, from whom her husband purchased his fatal delirium tremens.

Richard Williamson, of Corwin, O., took his suicide Dido fashion, at the top of a burning log heap. A wife and one child are doing the mourning.

A young married man in Arkansas shot himself, last week, because he was tired of whipping his wife, and she wouldn't behave herself without the whipping.

A young lady engaged in the manufacture of ladies' h-b-buttles, says people may talk and preach as much as they please, but they won't "back pay."

The Australians never sue for a divorce. When a husband gets discouraged, he takes his wife to the brow of a cliff to view the gorgeous sunset, and over she goes.

The editor of a popular magazine in New York declares that 100,000 women are constantly sending poetry to him, the commonest subject treated being "Our dead baby."

A deer was recently caught at Babylon, L. I., alive, in the water. He made so much noise that the people on the shore, who were over on his back and tie his legs before they could get him ashore.

Polite ears are supposed not to hear scandal. It is one of those coarse, contraband things which belong so naturally to low life, that the doors of truly refined society are forever closed against it.

A young man in Troy doesn't understand why people are always establishing homes for aged indigent people. He thinks a home for indigent young men would be the thing.

An Eau Claire (Wis.) wife went for her billiard-playing husband, one night, called all the boys up to the bar and they "shook" for drinks. She took whiskey straight, and he hadn't troubled her any since.

One hundred and fifty clergymen were invited to be present at the dedication of a temporary home for imberbiates in Boston and not one was in attendance to make the opening prayer.

It is interesting to observe the way a man turns and looks at a stone his wife has stabbed against him. We forbear to repeat his usual exclamation on such occasions. His looks indicate the sentiments of his heart.

Texan babies who don't take kindly to castor oil have their mouths pried open with the shears slipped part way down the Houston baby's throat the other day, and after that the castor oil was deemed unnecessary.

The La Crosse Republican pungently and suggestively remarks: The next campaign in this state will show conclusively whether the state of Wisconsin is the chambermaid of the railroads, or whether she is the Madame that runs the house."

The homeopaths have won a victory in the Michigan Legislature, for it is now provided by law that two of the medical department of the State University shall be of that faith. We imagine they will have sweet, peaceful times in that school.

Tennessee is somewhat puffed up over a clergyman settled in that state who refuses to receive any pay from his congregation, teaches school, runs his own farm, and when any sister church needs assistance, goes off and raises money for it by lecturing.

Mark Twain, a few months after his first baby was born, was holding it on his knee. His wife said, "Now, confess, Samuel, that you love the child!" "I can't do that," replied the humorist, "but am willing to admit I respect the little thing for its father's sake."

Two respectable young men were found guilty by the criminal court at Murfreesboro, Tenn., recently, under an indictment for disturbing public worship, and fined \$30 and costs each, amounting to about \$75. Their offense was whispering to young ladies in church.

A western paper thinks it unfortunate that Rev. William Hammond was not appointed a commissioner to the Modes, instead of Rev. Mr. Thomas. "A valuable life would thus have been saved to the nation, and Hammond would have been placed where he would do the most good."

A beautiful young girl was married in San Francisco last week, and at the conclusion of the marriage ceremony she turned to her husband and said, "George, kiss me, I am dying." The husband complied with the request, and at that moment the young bride fell dead to the floor.

A colored man named Robinson of Orange Court House, Va., thought himself entitled, under the civil rights bill, to credit for a bag of tobacco at the store of Mr. Rose, and, on being refused, commenced shooting bullets all around Mr. Rose. Fearing he might injure the goods, the latter put a bullet through his head.

The executors of the late Thaddeus Stevens have recently erected a fence of brown sandstone around the lot in the Lancaster (Pa.) cemetery, where his remains lie. The grave is marked by a massive monument of granite, and planted with flowers, of which Mr. Stevens was very fond, and it yearly attracts many interested visitors.

Here's a queer advertisement from a Sacramento (Cal.) paper:—

Notice is hereby given of my intention to apply to the county court for an order compelling me to carry on business in my own name and on my own account. The business I intend to carry on is farming, raising cattle, horses, hogs, poultry and grain. My husband's name is John Neal. FRANCES C. NEAL.

## General News.

The steamer Walrus arrived at the port of St. John, N. F., from the seal fishery on Friday, bringing news that the steamer Tigress had come into Bay Roberts, 18 miles from St. John, having on board nineteen survivors of Capt. Hall's Arctic expedition, who were taken off from an iceberg on the 30th of April, in latitude 53 degrees and 35 seconds. When they last saw the Polar is she was under steam and canvas, making for a harbor on the east side of Northumberland island. She had no boats left of the six which she took with her from New York. Two were lost in the northern expedition, two were landed on the ice with Capt. Tyson's party, one was burnt, and five were used for a harbor on the east side of Northumberland island. She had no boats left of the six which she took with her from New York. Two were lost in the northern expedition, two were landed on the ice with Capt. Tyson's party, one was burnt, and five were used for a harbor on the east side of Northumberland island. She had no boats left of the six which she took with her from New York. Two were lost in the northern expedition, two were landed on the ice with Capt. Tyson's party, one was burnt, and five were used for a harbor on the east side of Northumberland island.

The party which had been landed from the Polar, were driven from her by a gale which burst from her moorings on the 15th of October, 1872, in latitude 72 degrees and 35 seconds. When they last saw the Polar is she was under steam and canvas, making for a harbor on the east side of Northumberland island. She had no boats left of the six which she took with her from New York. Two were lost in the northern expedition, two were landed on the ice with Capt. Tyson's party, one was burnt, and five were used for a harbor on the east side of Northumberland island. She had no boats left of the six which she took with her from New York. Two were lost in the northern expedition, two were landed on the ice with Capt. Tyson's party, one was burnt, and five were used for a harbor on the east side of Northumberland island.

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## General News.

The steamer Walrus arrived at the port of St. John, N. F., from the seal fishery on Friday, bringing news that the steamer Tigress had come into Bay Roberts, 18 miles from St. John, having on board nineteen survivors of Capt. Hall's Arctic expedition, who were taken off from an iceberg on the 30th of April, in latitude 53 degrees and 35 seconds. When they last saw the Polar is she was under steam and canvas, making for a harbor on the east side of Northumberland island. She had no boats left of the six which she took with her from New York. Two were lost in the northern expedition, two were landed on the ice with Capt. Tyson's party, one was burnt, and five were used for a harbor on the east side of Northumberland island. She had no boats left of the six which she took with her from New York. Two were lost in the northern expedition, two were landed on the ice with Capt. Tyson's party, one was burnt, and five were used for a harbor on the east side of Northumberland island.

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